MASS. UM101.5: 998/[summer]

THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS / MCCORMACK INSTITUTE POLL

June 17-25, 1998

UMASS/AMHERST
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TOTAL SAMPLE = 474 (+/- 5%)
GENERAL ELECTION SAMPLE = 401 (+/- 5%)
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY SAMPLE = 322 (+/- 6%)

1. First, for how many years have you lived at your current address?

10%	1. less than 1 year
16	2. more than 1 but less than 3
11	3. more than 3 but less than 5
19	4. more than 5 but less than 10
13	5. more than 10 but less than 15
32	6. 15 or more
	7. not sure/ don't know

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2. Which of the following best describes the city or town where you live?

17%	1. an urban area with more than 100,000 people
16	2. urban area with between 50 and 100,000 people
21	3. small city with between 25 and 50,000 people
17	4. a suburban area
24	5. small town with less than 10,000 people
2	6. other
3	7. : not sure/ don't know

3. How would you describe the availability of housing in your community for someone like you, would you say there are:

19%	1. a lot of houses available
46	2. enough houses
30	3. not enough houses available
6	4. : not sure/ don't know

4. Would you describe the cost of housing in your community for someone like you as high, moderate, or low?

39%	1. high
50	2. moderate
6	3. low
5	4. not sure/ don't know

5. What kind of building do you live in, is it a: ?

57%	1. single family
21	2. two to four family
7	3. condo complex
14	4. apartment building (5 OR MORE UNITS)
2	5. other
0	6. : not sure/ don't know

6. Do you own or rent your home?

64%	1. own
35	2. rent
1	3. not sure/ don't know

7. Was the purchase price:

38%	1. less than $100,000
19	2. between 100 and $149,000
14	3. between 150 and $199,000
7	4. between 200 and $249,000
4	5. between 250 and $299,000
2	6. between 300 and $349,000
3	7. more than 400K
13	8. : not sure/ don't know

8. Did you get any financial help to buy your home from a local, state, or federal government program or agency?

11%	1. yes
85	2. no
4	3. not sure/ don't know --|

9. What is your monthly rent, without utilities, is it:

28%	1. less than $500
30	2. between 500 and $699
21	3. between 700 and $899
7	4. between 900 and $1,100
8	5. more than $1,100
7	6. : not sure/ don't know

10. Has the amount of rent you pay increased in the past two years?

41%	1. yes
56	2. no
3	3. not sure/ don't know

11. Does any local, state, or federal government program or agency pay a portion of your rent?

12%	1. yes
88	2. no
	3. not sure/ don't know ----|

12. What program or agency provides the assistance? Is that a local, state, or federal government program?

5%	1. Social security
10	2. HUD
5	3. AFDC
5	4. Home City
15	5. Federal government-n.s.
35	6. Section *
5	7. Local government
10	8. Don't know
5	9. Refused

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13. Would you like to own your own home?

67%	1. yes
31	2. no
2	3. not sure/ don't know

14. Which of the following is the greatest obstacle to your owning your home?

23%	1. lack of a down payment
14	2. lack of good credit
27	3. don't earn enough money
5	4. can't afford a large enough home for my size family
0	5. interest rates are too high
14	6. monthly mortgage payment would be too high
9	7. : other
8	8. : none of above
0	9. : not sure/ don't know

15. Does the amount of your monthly housing payment (MORTGAGE OR RENT) make it hard for your family to make ends meet?

25%	1. yes
73	2. no
3	3. not sure/ don't know

16. Have you been late in making a monthly housing payment (MORTGAGE OR RENT) in the last year?

11%	1. yes
86	2. no
3	3. not sure/ don't know

17. Now turning to some questions about publicly assisted housing. To the best of your knowledge, is there any housing in your community for persons with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities?

60%	1. yes
22	2. no
18	3. not sure/ don't know

18. In your opinion, does this type of housing improve, devalue, or make no difference to the quality of life in your community?

25%	1. improve
7	2. devalue
65	3. make no difference
4	4. not sure/ don't know

19. Are there shelters for the homeless in your community?

36%	1. yes
45	2. no
19	3. not sure/ don't know

20. In your opinion, does your community need more homeless shelters?

36% 1. yes
49 2. no
15 3. not sure/ don't know

21. To the best of your knowledge, is there any public housing in your community, that is, housing which is only available to low income residents?

67% 1. yes
20 2. no ----------I
14 3. not sure/ don't know

22. In your opinion, does this type of housing improve, devalue, or make no difference to the quality of life in your community?

19% 1. improve
17 2. devalue
56 3. make no difference
7 4. not sure/ don't know

23. In your opinion, how long should qualified families who can't afford private housing be permitted to live in public housing?

38% 1. as long as they can't afford to move
19 2. if they have children, stay until the children grow up
30 3. for a fixed period of time, for example, 3-7 years
13 4. : not sure/ don't know

24. In your opinion, should every community have some public housing that is, housing which is publicly assisted?

84% 1. yes
12 2. no
5 3. not sure/ don't know

25-30. I'm going to read a list of proposals for government housing assistance programs. Please tell me if you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each one.

	strong favor	favor	oppose	strong oppose	don't know not sure
25. assist first time home buyers w/down payment and closing costs	35%	45	11	2	6
26. assist all homeowners with lower rates interest	25%	54	12	3	5
27. assist low income buyers with low interest rates	27%	62	6	1	4
28. assist private developers to build affordable housing	18%	56	15	4	6
29. assist low income renters to pay their rent	17%	54	20	2	7
30. assist people 65 and over to pay for their housing	28%	54	12	1	6

31. Here's a question on a slightly different topic. Homeowners can deduct their mortgage interest and local real estate taxes from their federal taxable income. Do you consider this deduction a form of government subsidy?

41% 1. yes
50 2. no
9 3. not sure/ don't know

32-34. Here are some statements about landlords. and I'd like you to tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. The first statement is: (strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree).

	strong agree	agree	strong disagr	disagr	don't know
32. if a person has good character references, good credit history, and the ability to pay, a landlord should be legally required to rent to that person	36%	39	18	4	3
33. landlords should have the right to rent or not to rent to whomever they please	13%	50	24	6	7
34. landlords should have the right to reject tenants with children	8%	28	37	19	8

35. Turning to some questions about the University of Massachusetts. How much would you say you know about the five campus University of Massachusetts system, would you say you know a great deal, know quite a bit, know something, or that you know practically nothing about it?

6% 1. great deal
13 2. quite a bit
40 3. something
39 4. nothing
3 5. no opinion/don't know

36. How would you describe the quality of education at the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts system? Is it excellent, good, not so good, or poor, or is that something that you don't know much about?

15% 1. excellent
44 2. good
3 3. not so good
1 4. poor
38 5. don't know/ not sure

37. Some people say that having a high percentage of workers with a college education is good for a state's economy. How important to the Massachusetts economy do you think it is to have a high percentage of workers with a college education?

45% 1. very important
40 2. somewhat important
8 3. not very important
3 4. not at all important
4 5. don't know/ not sure

38. Some people say that working in a state with a high percentage of college graduates has economic benefits even for workers who do not have a college education. Would you say you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?

18% 1. strongly agree
56 2. agree
14 3. disagree
3 4. strongly disagree
9 5. don't know/ not sure

QUESTIONS 39 THROUGH 42 N = 401 REGISTERED VOTERS

39. Turning now to questions about politics and the elections coming up in November this year. Suppose the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were Republican Acting Governor Paul Cellucci and Democrat Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, for whom would you vote?

39% 1. Cellucci
34 2. Harshbarger
17 3. undecided
4 4. would not vote
7 5. don't know/ not sure

40. Suppose the candidates for Governor were Republican Paul Cellucci and Democrat former State Senator Patricia McGovern, for whom would you vote?

39% 1. Cellucci
33 2. McGovern
17 3. undecided
8 4. would not vote
8 5. don't know/ not sure know

41. And what if the candidates for Governor were Republican State Treasurer Joseph Malone running against Democrat Scott Harshbarger?

27% 1. Malone
42 2. Harshbarger
18 3. undecided
4 4. would not vote
9 5. don't know

42. Regardless of your voter registration, how would you describe your politics today, would you describe yourself as mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

22% 1. mostly Democratic
16 2. leaning Democratic
37 3. completely independent
10 4. leaning Republican
12 5. mostly Republican
1 6. something else
3 7. not sure/ don't know

QUESTIONS 43 THROUGH 45 N = 322 REGISTERED DEMOCRATIC AND INDEPENDENT VOTERS

43. If the Democratic primary election for Governor were held today and the candidates were former Congressman Brian Donnally, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and former State Senator Patricia McGovern, for whom would you vote?

7%	1. Donnally
37	2. Harshbarger
18	3. McGovern
38	4. undecided

44. Suppose the candidates were narrowed down to Scott Harshbarger and Patricia McGovern, for whom would you vote?

36%	1. Harshbarger
27	2. McGovern
38	3. undecided

45. How about the Primary election for Attorney General, with the candidates as State Senator Lois Pines and District Attorney Thomas Riley, for whom would you vote?

23%	1. Pines
30	2. Riley
46	3. undecided

QUESTIONS 46 THROUGH 50 N = 401 REGISTERED VOTERS

46. Last year state government passed laws to de-regulate the way electricity is sold in Massachusetts. De-regulation permits electric companies from outside the state to compete with Massachusetts companies to sell electricity here. It could lower electric bills and it could force some electric companies to go out of business. How much would you say you have read or heard about de-regulation of electricity, would you say you've read or heard

7%	1. great deal
23	2. quite a bit
42	3. something
26	4. or practically nothing
2	5. no opinion/don't know

47. There will be a proposal on the ballot in November to revoke last year's laws to deregulate the way electricity is sold in Massachusetts. If you had to vote on this question right now, would you vote to revoke the laws, or against revoking them, or is that something you feel you don't know enough about to say?

21%	1. for
36	2. against
3	3. wouldn't vote
40	4. don't know enough

48. Another proposal on the November ballot would change the state income tax rate on interest and dividend income from 12% to 5.95%, to make it the same as the tax rate for salaries and wages. Interest and dividend income is money earned on stocks, bonds, and savings accounts. If you had to vote on this question right now, would you vote for it, or against it, or is that something you feel you don't know enough about to say?

51%	1. for
19	2. against
2	3. wouldn't vote
28	4. don't know enough

49. Also on the ballot in November will be a question proposing to eliminate all tolls on roads, bridges, and tunnels, including the Mass Turnpike. If you had to vote on this question right now, would you vote for or against it, or is that something you feel you don't know enough about to say?

50%	1. for
34	2. against
2	3. wouldn't vote
14	4. don't know enough

50. One more question about laws: the age of consent for sexual relations in Massachusetts is 16 years old. At the same time, state law requires women under the age of 18 to get permission from a parent or judge in order to have an abortion. Which of the following comes closest to your position on these two laws:

3%	1. opposed to abortion, leave the sexual relations consent age at 16
18	2. opposed to abortion, increase the consent age at 18
20	3. both the age of consent and the age for abortion permission should be 16
30	4. both the age of consent and the age for abortion permission should be 18
20	5. leave things as they are
9	6. : not sure/ don't know

QUESTIONS 51 THROUGH 57 N = 474

51. Now just a few more questions so we can classify your answers. Which of the following describes most of your ancestors?

3%	1. African American
3	2. Asian American
3	3. Hispanic
68	4. European
20	5. something else
2	6. nor sure/ don't know

52. Age:

8%	1. 18-24
16	2. 25-34
22	3. 35-44
19	4. 45-54
13	5. 55-64
20	6. 65 and over
3	7. refused

53. What is the zip code at this telephone?

54. What is the last grade of school or year of college that you have completed?

5%	1. Less than high school
26	2. High school graduate
4	3. a two year associates degree
20	4. some College
28	5. College Graduate
15	6. Post Graduate
3	7. don't know/refused

55. Is your name on the list of registered voters?

85%	1. yes
13	2. no
2	3. not sure/ don't know

56. And the last question, if you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be:

4%	1. Less than $10,000
7	2. Between $10,000 and $20,000
10	3. Between $20,000 and $30,000
15	4. Between $30,000 and $40,000
11	5. Between $40,000 and $50,000
18	6. Between $50,000 and $75,000
18	7. More than $75,000
17	8. don't know/Refused

57. GENDER, BY INTERVIEWER OBSERVATION. IF UNSURE, ASK: Are you male or female?

49%	1. male
51%	2. female